

**SOUTHERN CITIES OF UZBEKISTAN  
IN THE INDEPENDENCE YEARS**



**History**

**Keywords:** Kashkadarya, region, city, cities, population, house, funds, beautification, alley, garden, stadium.

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**Abstract**

In this article is given information about the history of the southern cities of Uzbekistan in independence years. The information is given and analyzed about that one of the southern regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan is considered Kashkadarya region, and during the independence years the number of population of cities of the region have been significantly increased, the plots of land for the construction of houses have been allocated, the modern buildings have been built by the government, they have been given to use, existing buildings have reconstructed and certain beautification works have been carried out in the cities.

The history of cities is considered an indispensable and important component of the history of Uzbekistan. Analyzing factors and causes of the emergence of cities, as well as the development stages and effectively using them in the study of the history of the country are also culmination issue, together with this; they are questionable and interesting theme. As, the city is a window of the region, the mentality, the history and the present day, the economy and culture of the people can be identified through them. During the independence years, a lot of works have been carried out in order to develop the cities of Uzbekistan, also, nowadays reforms in this field have been continued in large scale, on a high level.

The special attention is given to “...rapid development of small cities and towns” in the “Development strategy” which was outlined for 2017-2021 years on the five steady direction of the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan [22, p. 21]. Studying the history of the cities, making appropriate conclusions from it have important significant.

During the independence years, absolute changes have been carried out in all spheres in Uzbekistan within short time. We can see the results of massive works in Kashkadarya region which is one of the southern regions of the Republic, in its cities and villages.

There are 12 cities in Kashkadarya region, and if we see the pages of the history, city status was given to Karshi city in 1926, to Shakhrisabz city in 1929. The small and middle cities of the region had the modern city status in the 70-80s years of the XX century.

As mentioned above, a number of residential areas of the region had city status in the 70-80s years of the last century, and during the independence years, certain changes have happened in the life of these cities. In the early years of independence, it was observed in the population of the cities of Uzbekistan that the number of Russian-speaking population living in the cities were massive, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, most of them moved to Russian-speaking countries, as the result the urban population was decreased. For example, the population of Guzar in 1990 was 21.0 thousand people, in 1995 it was 19.2 thousand people, and the population of

Talimarjan city –decreased from 10.0 thousand people to 6.8 thousand people [1, p. 207]. This situation can be observed in other cities of our republic.

The population of the cities of regions has grown significantly in recent years. If we analyze the 1995 and 2008 years that in 1995, 208.7 thousand (in Koson - 47.7, in Mubarek - 20.5, in Talimarjan - 6.8, in Kitab - 31.8, in Beshkent - 13.2, in Guzar - 19.2, in Yakkabog - 20.1, in Kamashi - 26.6, in Chirakchi - 15.1 , in Yangi Nishan - 7.7) people lived in the cities of the region, and it consisted of 42.7% of the urban population of the region.

In 2008, 264.6 thousand people, namely, 42,9% of the urban population of the region lived in these cities (in Koson 60.5, in Mubarek 24.8, in Talimarjan 8.8, in Kitab 38.0, in Beshkent 16.8, in Guzar 23.6, in Yakkabog 23.9, in Kamashi 35.8, in Chirakchi 20.7, in Yangi Nishan 11.7).

In 1992, total 1.756 thousand people lived in the region, 1914.6 thousand people in 1995, 2509.4 thousand people lived in 2008. The population of the city of the oasis was as follows: 459 thousand people in 1992, 488.6 thousand people in 1995, and 616.5 thousand people in 2008 [21]. In general, 24.6% of the population of Kashkadarya region lived in cities and occupied the sixth place among the regions of the country in terms of the number of the urban population in 2008.

According to the information of January 1, 2017, the number of permanent population in the cities of the region was total 314498 people, in particular, in Koson-74525, in Mubarek -31079, in Talimarjan-11814, in Kitab-44230, in Beshkent-20175, in Guzar-26362, in Yakkabag-23237, in Kamashi -42851, in Chirakchi-26288, in Yangi Nishan-13937[7].

Growth of the population has led to increase demand for houses. Giving land plots, construction of houses and reconstruction of existing buildings have been carried out in order to provide houses to the population of the cities of the region. For example, there were 154 thousand people in Kitab city in 1992. 78 hectares of land were allocated to the citizens for construction of houses and expansion of their gardens in this year, 316 new apartment blocks were built. In 1993, there were 882 houses in the account of the houses department of Kitab city, over 2500 people lived here. 6 million soums were spent for construction and reconstruction works by the houses department of Kitab city in these houses in this year [20, p. 24].

A positive works have also been done in Yakkabag city of the region. It is planned to build 31.49 thousand square meters houses in 1993 in the city and district of Yakkabog, 33,19 thousand square meters houses were given for using. In 1994, 2426 square meters houses were built from the account of all sources in Yakkabog, 35 families moved to new houses. In general, 141 thousand 272 square meters houses were built in 1990-1994 years, 8.5 thousand families moved to new houses [16, p. 23].

Total 26921 square meters individual houses in 1992, 56.1 square meters individual houses in 1998 were built in the cities and districts of Kamashi. However, there were serious problems with providing land to the population. Only 202 families in 1994 and only 84 families in 1995 were

givenlands in Kamashi. 350 families waited for their queue for taking the land in the city in 1996 [14, p. 6].

The need for houses has grown dramatically because any houses has been not built and given to use in Beshkentsince 1987. According to the information of April, 1992, 127 people were in the queue for houses, 152 people were in the queue forthe land plotsby the city. In this year, four- and eight-room houses were built and given to use in the territory of Beshkentcity, and land plots were given with land plots for construction of individual houses for 48 people.Khokimiyat of the Karshi district gave 776 hectares of land to 5477 families for construction of individual houses and development of auxiliary households for the population of the Karshi district and Beshkent city for 1992-1994. The population built 115 thousand 667 square meters-houses [13, p. 28] and moved to new houses.

It was planned to build 430540 square meters houses on the basis of all sources in the region in 1993, and 489973 square metershouses were built and given to use. The plan was done 113.8%. However, 2187 square meters houses were built and given to use from the account of population in Kitab, 1076 square meters houses were built and given to use from the account ofpublic funds in Guzar, 1027 square meters houses in Kamashi. For 1990-1994 years, 3 million square meters houses were built in the region, about 50 thousand families moved to new houses. In 1998, 751 thousand square meters houses were built and given to use [4] instead of 683 thousand square meters.

Edifying workshave been done to improve the well-being of life of the people living in multi-storeyed residential areas of the cities of the region. There were 4 house-managing communities in Yangi Nishan city, 5 in Tallimarjan city, communities served to 3619 families in 167 multi-storey houses. Multi-storey houses which were located in Yangi Nishan and Tallimarjan cities, were entered to the completely reconstruction plan, and total 71 [11] multi-storey houses were reconstructed, in particular, 14 in 2003, 17 in 2004, 40 in 2005.

According to the reconstruction plan of multi-storey houses which were built till 1991, 9 multi-storey houses were planned to be reconstructed in Kitab in 2005, and the plan was completed in 9 months [18, 85]. In the region, reconstruction of 184 multi-storey houses was planned according to the completely reconstruction plan of the houses which were built till 1991, in 2005, and the plan was done 100% [12, p. 46]. Multi-storey houses were completely reconstructed.

The fund of houses of the cities of Kashkadarya region was 6.0 million square metersin1997;it was 8.5 million square meters in 2007. In the region, this indicator was 26.3in 1997 and it was 32.4in 2007 [23, p. 83].

In recent years, the works in this field had been consistently implemented. 1037.8 thousand square meter houses were built and given to use in 2015 in the region, and 1169.9 thousand square meter houses were built and given to use in 2016[7].

Kashkadarya region which is one of the leading regions of the independent Republic of Uzbekistan, has a unique place among the regions of country its ancient and charming cities. During the independence years, the jubilees of the ancient cities of Karshi and Shahrisabz have been widely celebrated. The appearance of the city was beautiful. Also, beautification and construction works were carried out in the small and middle towns of the oasis; the works was widely continued in the early years of independence.

In Kitab city which is one of the beautiful cities of the Kashkadarya oasis, a serious attention was paid to beautification and landscaping. In 1993, 56725 trees, about 10000 flower grafts and more than 10 hectares gardens were cared in the city streets, about 10 km irrigation ditches and trays were cleaned. In addition, in 1993, 21000 fruit and ornamental trees grafts were planted in Kitab city [19, p. 21]. In the early years of independence, the territory of the city was expanded from 280 hectares to 400 hectares, and this indicates that the beautification works was increased in this area.

In Guzar city, which has a long history, a large amount of funds were allocated for the beautification works. In 1993, 758885 soums from the funds of the city council which were allocated for social issues by from the city council, were allocated in order to set up barriers around the central streets and parks [6, p.134]. In that year 81800 soums from the funds of the city council which were allocated for social issues by from the city council, were allocated and spent in order to decorate the city center, the recreation park and the stadium with slogans and to carry out beautification works for celebration of “Navruz” holiday [8, p. 110].

It is known that 1 million 433 thousand 230 people from Uzbekistan, in particular, about 46 thousand young youth from Kashkadarya region, were involved in the war during the Second World War, which brought an unprecedented calamity and grief-sorrow to the people of the world. Most of our warriors did not return from the war. The first President of the Republic of Uzbekistan I.A.Karimov emphasized that our people struggled for freedom against fascism, their courage in the battlefields, their hard work in our country and 100 thousands of victims were remembered forever, 9 May was announced as “The day of Memory and Honors” with the Decree on March 2, 1999.

It should be emphasized that this phenomenon is undoubtedly one of the most serious step which the life required, in the way of restoration of historical memory in our country. In this regard, the Memorial squares which is specific to the spirit and views of our people, was established instead of the old monuments representing the Soviet ideology in our country, in particular, in the cities of Kashkadarya, “Mourningful mother” monument was fixed. For example, memory park “Mourningful mother” and Mustakillik square were built in Kamashi city in 2003. In this square, the memory of 1450 courageous and brave warriors who were not returned from the Second World War, has been memorialized [2, p. 3].

Independence Day is a holiday which was written with golden letters in the history of our country. The great construction works were carried out in our cities on the eve of celebration of this holiday, and celebration of the holiday has become a tradition.

On the eve of the 8th Anniversary of Independence, Independence Square was built in the city center of Beshkent. The works which are equal to total of 50 million soums, were carried out here by the creators [3]. The passageways with embroidered tiles, the fountain system that gave the beauty to the marble pools, and the symbol of the flying “Humo bird” in the middle of the square gave astonishing view.

One of the suburb territories of the region is Talimarjan city. In Talimarjan, a hectare of land which was neglected land, surrounded by the iron fences in 1999, a garden was created and it called as the “Independence garden” for the 8th anniversary of the independence of our country [17, p. 12]. In the first quarter of 1999 more than 3 thousand fruit and ornamental trees grafts were planted and beautification works were done.

In 2005, 16 hectares of land were beautified in the “Yoshlik” makhalla in Mubarak city. Trays were cleaned. More than forty five tons of waste were removed. 340 bush ornamental, 50 bush fruit grafts, 200 bush flowers grafts were planted. More than 400 bush trees were shaped. More than 1,000 fruit and ornamental trees were formed in the “Tong” makhalla of the city. More than 500 bush ornamental and 400 bush flowers grafts were planted [10].

A “Health” park was built in Yakkabag city on the eve of the Navruz holiday in 2005. This park which was built in connection with the Year of Health, consists of about 2 hectares [5]. Green and needle-leaf trees were planted here. This garden is outlined not only for patients in hospitals, maternity hospitals, but also for everyone in the city in order to walk, to rest and to improve their health.

In 2007, the old playground in Chirakchi city was fully destroyed and new playground with a total capacity of 3,000 spectators was built by the sponsors, and its surrounding was beautified, more than a thousand ornamental trees were planted [15, p. 15]. Old stores in the territory of central farmer market of the city were destroyed and reconstructed and put into operation by sponsors and entrepreneurs.

In recent years, much attention has been paid to the beautification and landscaping works in Kashkadarya. The amount of funds which were allocated for beautification, has been annually increased. Many trees and flower grafts are planted and cared of them in cities every year. The construction and reconstruction of the smooth roads and the construction of the most beautiful buildings have added beauty to the beauty of the cities.

The President of our country, Sh. M. Mirziyoev visited Kashkadarya region on February 24-25 of 2017. Over the past five years, the amount of the gross regional product has grown 2 times in the region, the regional export has increased to 100 million US dollar and it has increased 2.5 times compared to 2011 [9]. Such growth rates have been reflected in people's living

conditions, as well as in the appearance of cities and villages of the region. During the visit, the President saw the creative works and perspective projects which have been carried out, and expressed his views and gave necessary instructions.

In fact, the history of the southern cities of Uzbekistan in the independence years has not been studied as a separate research object. When this theme is mainly illuminated based on primary sources, scientific literature, and the materials of periodicals, we can see that the significant changes took place in the life of the cities of Kashkadarya region, the number of population significantly grew, lands were given by the government in order to build houses, modern houses were built by the state and were given to use and existing buildings were reconstructed in the independence years. A great deal of attention was paid to the beautification works in the cities.

One of the important tasks is that the works which the people want, have been carried out for the interests of human, the outlook of the younger generation has been expanded as giving necessary conclusions, the spirituality of the younger generation has been enriched in the southern cities of Uzbekistan in the independence years.

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